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February 14, 2011

**SB 945 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC FILING OF CAMPAIGN  
REPORTS WITH THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT  
COMMISSION**

Representative Morin, Senator Slossberg and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, my name is Bill Jenkins. Presently, I am a treasurer for a political committee organized by two or more individuals and I am the treasurer for State Representative Mike Alberts' 2012 candidate committee. I have been serving as a treasurer for 15 years for quite a number of campaigns and political committees. I am a member of the Connecticut Republican State Central Committee and I serve as the Secretary of that committee. I am also the Republican Registrar of Voters in Chaplin.

This bill would essentially require all candidate committees including those for candidates for State Representative, State Senator and Judge of Probate to file their campaign finance disclosure statements electronically.

While I do not file my reports electronically, I have spoken with far too many treasurers over the past few years who have expressed deep concerns with the Commission's electronic filing system otherwise known as "eCRIS." Treasurers have told me the system is unavailable at key times, most notably the last day for filing their reports with the state. I do know that the SEEC has dedicated staff who are constantly working to improve the eCRIS system and it is better now than it was a few years ago however I am of the opinion that additional work needs to be completed to ensure confidence in campaign treasurers and candidates that the system is dependable and reliable.

As you know, many treasurers of smaller campaigns such as those for State Representative, State Senator and Judge of Probate do not invest thousands of dollars in campaign management software such as Aristotle which make it very simple and very easy to file campaign financial disclosure statements with the SEEC. Some of us utilize spreadsheet software to make the job easier but there are still quite a few treasurers out there who do not but instead rely on keeping track of their internal records the old fashioned way, with a pen and paper.

It was only until just very recently that treasurers were able to upload their data into the eCRIS system via an upload option which I have done myself along with assistance from Commission staff on a test site and was I ultimately successful.

However, I do have a concern with this, the eCRIS system requires that treasurers disclose details that are not required by Chapter 155 of the statutes or the upload will not be accepted. For example, the eCRIS system requires that treasurers supply a check number and the date the check was written for an expenditure. This is not required by 9-608(c)(1)(C) and therefore should not be required for a treasurer to report if he or she does not want to.

Allowing a filing procedure to control or dictate the law is wrong. If the eCRIS system were revised to address these and similar concerns, I may be more inclined to support this legislation however at this time, I remain opposed to it.